

My name is Charles Joel McManus of Madison, WI. I am writing to express my opposition to relaxation of media ownership regulations, as will be decided on June 2. I am a concerned citizen and I am disturbed by the concept of having less competition in the mediums of television, radio, and print. I agree with the FCC's strategic goal of promoting competition and diversity. The best way to accomplish this goal is to break up major media trusts, not allow them to get larger. Our nation will suffer as a democracy if you five commissioners choose to allow a small number of large companies to control all mass media. I want to live in a country where there is more than one side to every story, a place where the news is interpreted from diverse points of view. Concentration of media ownership will take that away from Americans and will, like all trusts and monopolies, squash competition. A press that lacks competition is no longer free. Thus, relaxation of media regulation is against our nation's constitution. As an American citizen, I am proud of my rights and urge you to uphold them, your duty to the public. On June 2, think about the citizens' rights, not the greedy desires of large corporations.

Thank you for your time,
Charles Joel McManus